

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A seat belt retractor for winding and unwinding a seat belt, comprising:

a spool for winding and unwinding the seat belt,

a locking mechanism having a locking member attached to the spool to be rotatable therewith in a normal state and capable of locking the spool in an emergency state,

a torsion bar disposed between the spool and the locking member for absorbing kinetic energy of a passenger when the spool rotates in a direction that the seat belt is withdrawn relative to the locking member in an emergency situation,

a stopper screwed in a shaft of the locking member to be movable in an axial direction along the shaft of the locking member when the spool rotates relative to the locking member, said stopper locking the spool not to rotate when the locking member locks the stopper not to move in the axial direction, and

an energy-absorption pin member disposed ~~[[on]]~~ in one of the stopper and the locking member and situated between the stopper and the locking member, said pin member being configured for shear-deformation proximate a periphery of the one of the stopper and locking member in which the pin member is disposed, when the stopper moves in the axial direction along the shaft of the locking member.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A seat belt retractor according to claim 1, wherein said torsion bar and energy-absorption member are disposed separately.

4. (Currently amended) A seat belt retractor according to claim 1, further comprising a cutter disposed on one of the stopper and the locking member for cutting the energy-absorption pin member when the stopper moves along the shaft of the locking member.

5. (Original) A seat belt retractor according to claim 4, wherein said cutter includes an edge having an acute angle.

6. (New) A seat belt retractor according claim 1, wherein the pin member is arranged to project essentially radially out of the one of the stopper and the locking member in which it is disposed.

7. (New) A seat belt retractor according claim 1, further comprising at least one additional pin member which is disposed in one of the stopper and the locking member and which is arranged to project essentially radially with respect to the one of the stopper and the locking member in which it is disposed.

8. (New) A seat belt retractor according claim 4, wherein the cutter is a ring-shaped element which is separate from the stopper and the locking member.

9. (New) A seat belt apparatus comprising a seat belt retractor according to claim 1, a tang slidably inserting the seat belt, and a buckle to be attached to the tang.